

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/615,016

Examiner

DHIRU R PATEL

Applicant(s)

HIGUCHI, EIJI

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 7/9/03 and 12/19/03.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. The drawings filed on 09 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>1203</u> .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. <u>1203</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

DHIRU R PATEL 12/19/03
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2831

Art Unit: 2831

Part III DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ian Vallejo on 12/19/2003.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

In claim 3 lines 1-2, delete " is a lower cover, the lower cover having " .

In claim 3 line 1, insert -- includes-- after " member".

In claim 6 line 1, insert -- of said bars-- after " bar ".

In claim 6 line 2, insert -- of said plurality of drainage holes-- after " hole".

In claim 6 line 2, insert -- of said bars-- after " bar ".

In claim 6 line 3, insert -- of said plurality of drainage holes-- after " hole".

In the specification:

On page 5 paragraph [0037] lines 2-3, change " supporting plate" to -- intermediate case--.

Art Unit: 2831

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 1-6 are the inclusion therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation of a droplet dividing rib that projects from the exterior surface of the bottom wall and positioned between the plurality of drainage holes adjacent one another, and the droplet dividing rib being formed so as to contact with a surface of a member disposed below the bottom wall and form spaces between the exterior surface of the bottom wall and a top surface of the member that are divided to prevent liquid from one space from coming into contact with another space.

The previously listed limitations are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2831

Other prior art cited

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Listenberger, Yarbrough et al, Kawaguchi, Dinh et al, and Nishihara disclose a case similar to applicant's claimed invention.

Contact information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dhiru Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308 - 3748. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays- Thursdays from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard be reached at 703-308-3682. The fax number for this Group is 703-305-3431. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Dhiru Patel
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2831
December 22, 2003

Dhiru R Patel
Primary Examiner
12/22/03